

## Message Text

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R 201003Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2235  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19761

TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, UR  
SUBJECT: RUDOLF BARSHAY TO LEAVE THE USSR

REF: MOSCOW 12932

1. RUDOLF BARSHAY, ONE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S MOST PROMINENT CONDUCTORS AND FOUNDER-DIRECTOR OF THE MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE USSR AND HOPES TO DEPART BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. BARSHAY, A JEW, WILL LEAVE OSTENSIBLY FOR ISRAEL BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF SETTLING THERE. HE WILL GO, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, TO LONDON FOR SOME MONTHS. HE HAS YET TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE; IDEALLY HE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE ANOTHER ORCHESTRA, THIS ONE OF 40-50 MEMBERS TO SPECIALIZE IN THE SYMPHONIC WORKS OF MOZART, BEETHOVEN AND HAYDN. HE THINKS THAT GERMANY, THE UK AND THE U.S. ARE THE LIKELIEST PLACES.

2. BARSHAY FEELS THAT THE DECISION TO LET HIM GO IS PRINCIPALLY THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS THAT HE GAVE IN  
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SEPTEMBER TO SEVERAL WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. HE ALSO COMMENTS, HOWEVER, THAT AS HE WAS NO LONGER ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY HIS ORCHESTRA ON ITS TRIPS ABROAD (HE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED OUT OF THE USSR, EVEN TO A "SOCIALIST" COUNTRY, FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR) HIS VALUE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF OFFICIAL SOVIET CULTURE WAS RAPIDLY FADING. HE NOTES

THAT WITH HIS DEPARTURE THE NUMBER OF FIRST-RANK SOVIET CONDUCTORS DROPS, IN HIS OPINION, TO TWO, MR. VINSKIY OF THE LENINGRAD SYMPHONY FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC AND SVETLANOV FOR 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY RUSSIAN MUSIC.

3. BARSHAY FEELS THAT A GOOD MANY OTHER JEWISH SOVIET MUSICIANS WILL APPLY SOON TO LEAVE THE USSR. THE EXAMPLE OF ROSTROPOVICH, ABLE TO MAKE A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE WEST, HAS BEEN A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO SOVIET MUSICIANS, EVEN TO THOSE WHO, LIKE BARSHAY, DISLIKE THE MAN PERSONALLY. MEMBERS OF THE MAJOR ORCHESTRAS--THE MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA INCLUDED--ARE LEAVING IN INCREASING NUMBERS, AND OTHER MUSICIANS ARE PLANNING TO DO SO AS WELL. BARSHAY OBSERVES THAT THE MUSICAL AUTHORITIES CAN MORE EASILY ACCEPT THE DEPARTURE OF MEMBERS OF ORCHESTRAS THAN OF SOLOISTS AND MEMBERS OF SMALL ENSEMBLES, SINCE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE LATTER GROUPS ARE MUCH MORE IN THE PUBLIC EYE. THE BORODIN QUARTET, FOR INSTANCE, HAS NOT PERFORMED FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, THE RESULT OF THE EMIGRATION OF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS. BARSHAY SAYS THAT HE EXPECTS SOME 6 TO 8 MEMBERS OF HIS OWN ORCHESTRA TO APPLY TO LEAVE IN THE NEXT YEAR. MATLOCK

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